

The invention relates to novel anhydrous ( $\beta$ ) lactitol crystals, belonging to the orthorhombic  $P2_12_12_1$  crystal system and having unit cell constants  $a = 9.6 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 11.1 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 14.0 \text{ \AA}$ . The invention also relates to crystalline lactitol products containing the novel anhydrous  $\beta$  lactitol and to a process for the preparation thereof by crystallizing from an aqueous solution of lactitol.

The novel anhydrous  $\beta$  lactitol is stable and nonhygroscopic and it may be used as a substitute for sugar in foodstuffs and sweets, in as well as in pharmaceutical and hygienic products.

[illegible]